

# Foster Parents' Rights and Responsibilities

State of Washington

## RIGHTS and responsibilities

- The RIGHT to be treated with consideration and respect by agency staff;
- The RIGHT to a supportive relationship from the agency;
- The RIGHT to receive reimbursement for the children in their care in a timely manner;
- The RIGHT to be trained in the role as members of a team;
- The RIGHT to give input into the decisions regarding the child in their care and to be treated as a member of the team in developing case plans for the child;
- The RIGHT to a clear explanation or description of their role as foster parents and the role of the child's family and the agency;
- The RIGHT to receive pertinent information about the children in their care;
- The RIGHT to be informed of any grievance procedures or access to any appeals process should they wish to appeal the agency's policy, regulation, or plan for a child in their care;
- The RIGHT to continue their own family patterns and traditions;
- The RIGHT to refuse to accept a child into their family if they feel they cannot meet the needs of the child or the placement will affect the well-being of the foster family;
- The RIGHT to be notified of any Court action, Administrative Review, or Foster Care Citizen Review Board Hearing concerning a child in their care. Per Washington statute; the Judge makes the decision regarding a foster parent attending a Court Hearing;
- The RIGHT to be included in the permanency consideration for the child who is in the foster family's care;
- The RIGHT & RESPONSIBILITY to advocate for children in their care;
- The RESPONSIBILITY for the day-to-day care and nurturance of the child;
- The RESPONSIBILITY for keeping the agency informed of any changes in the child's life and in the foster parent's household;
- The RESPONSIBILITY to respect a child's biological family, traditions, culture and values;
- The RESPONSIBILITY to gain further knowledge and expertise regarding the care of children by attending on-going foster parent training;
- The RESPONSIBILITY to work cooperatively with agency staff as members of the child's team; and
- The RESPONSIBILITY to ensure a child's health and safety needs are met.

